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FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY

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ORIGINAL

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA
SNYDER COUNTY

MAY 15, 1986

Federal Emergency Management Agency

COMMUNITY NUMBER - 422041

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Purpose of Study	1
	1.2 Authority and Acknowledgements	1
	1.3 Coordination	2
2.0	AREA STUDIED	2
	2.1 Scope of Study	2
	2.2 Community Description	2
3.0	ENGINEERING METHODS	2
	3.1 Hydrologic Analyses	4
	3.2 Hydraulic Analyses	5
4.0	FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS	5
	4.1 Flood Boundaries	6
	4.2 Floodways	6
5.0	INSURANCE APPLICATION	9
	5.1 Reach Determinations	9
	5.2 Flood Hazard Factors	9
	5.3 Flood Insurance Zones	11
	5.4 Flood Insurance Rate Map Description	11

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TABLE OF CONTENTS - continued

	Page
6.0 OTHER STUDIES	11
7.0 LOCATION OF DATA	12
8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES	12

FIGURES

Figure 1 - Vicinity Map	3
Figure 2 - Floodway Schematic	8

TABLES

Table 1 - Summary of Discharges	4
Table 2 - Floodway Data	7
Table 3 - Flood Insurance Zone Data	10

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - Flood Profiles
Middle Creek — Panels 01P-02P

Exhibit 2 - Flood Boundary and Floodway Map

PUBLISHED SEPARATELY:

Flood Insurance Rate Map

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FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY
TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Study

This Flood Insurance Study investigates the existence and severity of flood hazards in the Township of Washington, Snyder County, Pennsylvania and aids in the administration of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973. This study will be used to convert Washington to the regular program of flood insurance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Local and regional planners will use this study in their efforts to promote sound flood plain management.

This Flood Insurance Study was prepared by compiling pertinent information for the flood hazard areas in the Township of Washington from existing technical and/or scientific data originally prepared by others for purposes other than the preparation of this Flood Insurance Study. This existing data was reviewed by FEMA prior to its use in the development of this Flood Insurance Study to ensure compliance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) accuracy requirements.

In some states or communities, flood plain management criteria or regulations may exist that are more restrictive or comprehensive than those on which these federally-supported studies are based. These criteria take precedence over the minimum federal criteria for purposes of regulating development in the flood plain, as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 44 CFR, 60.3. In such cases, however, it shall be understood that the state (or other jurisdictional agency) shall be able to explain these requirements and criteria.

1.2 Authority and Acknowledgments

The sources of authority for this Flood Insurance Study are the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for this study were performed by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission during the preparation of the Flood Insurance Study for the Township of Penn. The Penn study was completed in August 1981.

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1.3 Coordination

On April 19, 1985, the results of this study were reviewed at a final Consultation and Coordination Officer's (CCO) meeting attended by representatives of FEMA and the Township of Washington.

2.0 AREA STUDIED

2.1 Scope of Study

This Flood Insurance Study covers the incorporated area of the Township of Washington, Snyder County, Pennsylvania. The Borough of Freeburg is not included in this study. The area of study is shown on the Vicinity Map (Figure 1).

Middle Creek was studied by detailed methods for its entire length within the corporate limits. The areas studied by detailed methods were selected based upon the extent and validity of available existing hydrologic and hydraulic data.

Susquehecka Creek, Dry Run, and two unnamed tributaries were studied by approximate methods. Approximate methods of analysis were used to study all remaining areas having a potential flood hazard that did not have available scientific or technical data.

2.2 Community Description

The Township of Washington is located in the eastern portion of Snyder County in central Pennsylvania. It is bordered by the Townships of Union and Chapman to the southeast, the Township of Penn to the northeast, the Township of Middle Creek to the north, the Borough of Franklin to the northwest, and the Township of Perry to the southwest.

3.0 ENGINEERING METHODS

For the flooding source studied in detail in the community, standard hydrologic and hydraulic study methods were used to determine the flood hazard data required for this study. Flood events of a magnitude which are expected to be equaled or exceeded once on the average during any 10-, 50-, 100-, or 500-year period (recurrence interval) have been selected as having special significance for flood plain management and for flood insurance rates. These events, commonly termed the 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year floods, have a 10, 2, 1, and 0.2 percent chance, respectively, of being equaled or exceeded during any year. Although the recurrence interval represents the long term average period between floods of a specific magnitude, rare floods could occur at

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short intervals or even within the same year. The risk of experiencing a rare flood increases when periods greater than 1 year are considered. For example, the risk of having a flood which equals or exceeds the 100-year flood (1 percent chance of annual exceedence) in any 50-year period is approximately 40 percent (4 in 10), and, for any 90-year period, the risk increases to approximately 60 percent (6 in 10). The analyses reported herein reflect flooding potentials based on conditions existing in the community at the time of completion of this study. Maps and flood elevations will be amended periodically to reflect future changes.

3.1 Hydrologic Analyses

Hydrologic analyses were carried out to establish the peak discharge-frequency relationships for the flooding source studied in detail affecting the community.

Discharges for Middle Creek were obtained from the Flood Insurance Study for the Township of Penn (Reference 1). In the Penn study, peak discharge-frequency relationships were selected for Middle Creek by considering those developed by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for the Middle Creek watershed (Reference 2). Comparison of the selected peak discharge-frequency relationships with peak discharge-frequency relationships developed from regional hydrologic methods and with adjusted relationships from U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) gaging stations in the area were made at several locations (References 3, 4, 5, and 6). Locations were chosen so that all previously existing and ongoing studies could be evaluated. Gaging station peak discharge-frequency relationships, as developed by techniques in Water Resources Bulletin 17A, were obtained from the USGS for gaging station No. 5550 on Penns Creek, which is located in the Township of Center in Snyder County, and gaging station No. 5650 on Kishacoquillas Creek, which is located in Mifflin County (Reference 7). Peak discharges were then transferred to the sites for comparison by a drainage area proportionment formula.

A summary of drainage area-peak discharge relationships for Middle Creek is shown in Table 1, "Summary of Discharges."

TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF DISCHARGES

FLOODING SOURCE AND LOCATION	DRAINAGE AREA (sq. miles)	PEAK DISCHARGES (cfs) 10-YEAR	50-YEAR	100-YEAR	500-YEAR
MIDDLE CREEK					
At its confluence with Penns Creek	175	6,050	9,200	10,900	14,750

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3.2 Hydraulic Analyses

Analyses of the hydraulic characteristics of flooding from the source studied were carried out to provide estimates of the elevations of floods of the selected recurrence intervals.

Cross-section data for Middle Creek were obtained from aerial photographs (Reference 8). Below-water sections were obtained by field measurement. All bridges and culverts were surveyed to obtain elevation data and structural geometry.

Locations of selected cross sections used in the hydraulic analyses are shown on the Flood Profiles (Exhibit 1). For stream segments for which a floodway was computed (Section 4.2), selected cross section locations are also shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (Exhibit 2).

Water-surface elevations of floods of the selected recurrence intervals were computed using the COE HEC-2 step-backwater computer program (Reference 9). Flood profiles were drawn showing computed water-surface elevations for floods of the selected recurrence intervals. Starting water-surface elevations for Middle Creek were determined by the slope/area method.

Roughness coefficients (Manning's "n") used in the hydraulic computations were estimated by field inspection. The channel "n" values for Middle Creek ranged from 0.034 to 0.048, and the overbank "n" values ranged from 0.039 to 0.110.

All elevations are referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD). Elevation reference marks used in this study are shown on the maps.

The hydraulic analyses for this study were based on unobstructed flow. The flood elevations shown on the profiles are thus considered valid only if hydraulic structures remain unobstructed, operate properly, and do not fail.

4.0 FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

The National Flood Insurance Program encourages State and local governments to adopt sound flood plain management programs. Therefore, each Flood Insurance Study produces maps designed to assist communities in developing flood plain management measures.

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4.1 Flood Boundaries

To provide a national standard without regional discrimination, the 1 percent annual chance (100-year) flood has been adopted by FEMA as the base flood for flood plain management purposes. The 0.2 percent annual chance (500-year) flood is employed to indicate additional areas of flood risk in the community. For the stream studied in detail, the 100- and 500-year flood plain boundaries have been delineated using the flood elevations determined at each cross section. Between cross sections, the boundaries were interpolated using topographic maps (Reference 10).

For the streams studied by approximate methods, the boundary of the 100-year flood was delineated using the Flood Hazard Boundary Map for Washington (Reference 11).

The 100- and 500-year flood plain boundaries are shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (Exhibit 2). In cases where the 100- and 500-year flood plain boundaries are close together, only the 100-year flood plain boundary has been shown. Small areas within the flood plain boundaries may lie above the flood elevations but cannot be shown due to limitations of the map scale and/or lack of detailed topographic data.

4.2 Floodways

Encroachment on flood plains, such as structures and fill, reduces flood-carrying capacity, increases flood heights and velocities, and increases flood hazards in areas beyond the encroachment itself. One aspect of flood plain management involves balancing the economic gain from flood plain development against the resulting increase in flood hazard. For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, a floodway is used as a tool to assist local communities in this aspect of flood plain management. Under this concept, the area of the 100-year flood plain is divided into a floodway and a floodway fringe. The floodway is the channel of a stream, plus any adjacent flood plain areas, that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 100-year flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. Minimum federal standards limit such increases to 1.0 foot, provided that hazardous velocities are not produced. The floodway in this study is presented to local agencies as minimum standards that can be adopted directly or that can be used as a basis for additional floodway studies.

The floodway presented in this study was computed on the basis of equal conveyance reduction from each side of the flood plain. The results of these computations are tabulated at selected cross sections for the stream segment for which a floodway is computed (Table 2).

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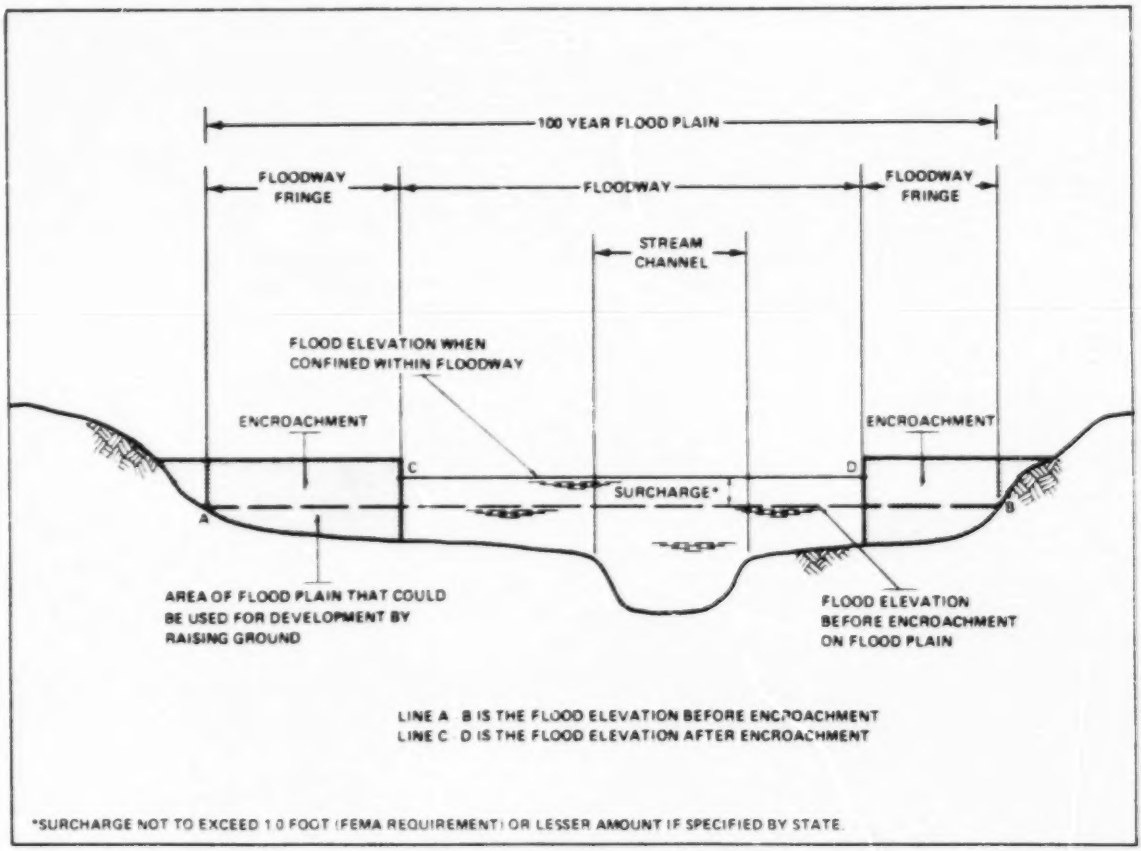
As shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (Exhibit 2), the floodway boundaries were computed at cross sections. Between cross sections, the boundaries were interpolated. In cases where the floodway and 100-year flood plain boundaries are either close together or collinear, only the floodway boundary has been shown. Portions of the floodway widths for Middle Creek extend beyond the corporate limits.

The area between the floodway and 100-year flood plain boundaries is termed the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe encompasses the portion of the flood plain that could be completely obstructed without increasing the water-surface elevation of the 100-year flood by more than 1.0 foot at any point. Typical relationships between the floodway and the floodway fringe and their significance to flood plain development are shown in Figure 2.


100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
FLOODWAY FRINGE
FLOODWAY
FLOODWAY FRINGE
STREAM CHANNEL
FLOOD ELEVATION WHEN CONFINED WITHIN FLOODWAY
ENCROACHMENT
ENCROACHMENT
C
D
A
B
SURCHARGE*
AREA OF FLOOD PLAIN THAT COULD BE USED FOR DEVELOPMENT BY RAISING GROUND
FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT ON FLOOD PLAIN
LINE A B IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION BEFORE ENCROACHMENT
LINE C D IS THE FLOOD ELEVATION AFTER ENCROACHMENT
*SURCHARGE NOT TO EXCEED 1.0 FOOT (FEMA REQUIREMENT) OR LESSER AMOUNT IF SPECIFIED BY STATE.

FLOODWAY SCHEMATIC Figure 2

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5.0 INSURANCE APPLICATION

To establish actuarial insurance rates, data from the engineering study must be transformed into flood insurance criteria. This process includes the determination of reaches, Flood Hazard Factors, and flood insurance zone designations for the flooding source studied in detail in the Township of Washington.

5.1 Reach Determinations

Reaches are defined as sections of flood plain that have relatively the same flood hazard, based on the average weighted difference in water-surface elevations between the 10- and 100-year floods. This difference may not have a variation greater than that indicated in the following tabulation for more than 20 percent of the reach:

Average Difference Between 10- and 100-Year Floods	Variation
Less than 2 feet	0.5 foot
2 to 7 feet	1.0 foot
7.1 to 12 feet	2.0 feet
More than 12 feet	3.0 feet

The location of the reach determined for the flooding source of the Township of Washington is shown on the Flood Profiles (Exhibit 1) and summarized in Table 3.

5.2 Flood Hazard Factors

The Flood Hazard Factor (FHF) is used to establish relationships between depth and frequency of flooding in any reach. This relationship is then used with depth-damage relationships for various classes of structures to establish actuarial insurance rate tables.

The FHF for a reach is the average weighted difference between the 10- and 100-year flood water-surface elevations rounded to the nearest one-half foot, multiplied by 10, and shown as a three-digit code. For example, if the difference between water-surface elevations of the 10- and 100-year floods is 0.7 foot, the FHF is 005; if the difference is 1.4 feet, the FHF is 015; if the difference is 5.0 feet, the FHF is 050. When the difference between the 10- and 100-year flood water-surface elevations is greater than 10.0 feet, it is rounded to the nearest whole foot.

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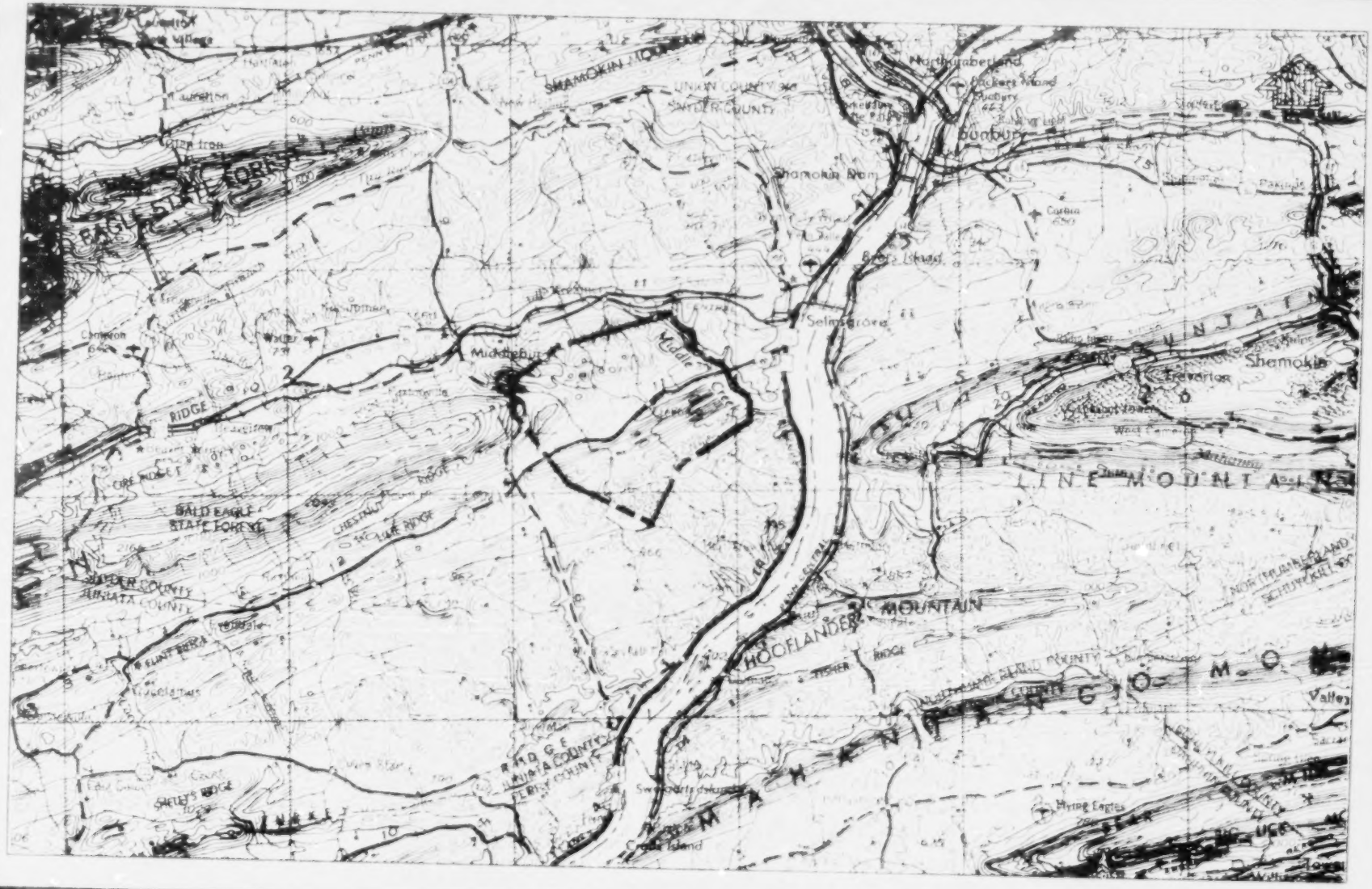

FIGURE 1

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PA

(SNYDER CO.)

APPROXIMATE SCALE

4 0 4 8 12 MILE

VICINITY MAP

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FLOODING SOURCE		FLOODWAY			BASE FLOOD WATER SURFACE ELEVATION			
CROSS SECTION	DISTANCE[1]	WIDTH[2] (FEET)	SECTION AREA (SQUARE FEET)	MEAN VELOCITY (FEET PER SECOND)	REGULATORY	WITHOUT FLOODWAY	WITH FLOODWAY	INCREASE
					(FEET NGVD)			
Middle Creek								
A	1,080	807/407	6,893	1.6	441.5	441.5	442.1	0.6
B	1,785	526/246	4,851	2.2	441.6	441.6	442.2	0.6
C	3,970	210/15	1,766	6.2	442.2	442.2	442.8	0.6
D	4,820	460/200	4,426	2.5	443.9	443.9	444.7	0.8
E	6,495	897/857	4,616	2.4	444.9	444.9	445.6	0.7
F	6,965	660/500	3,996	2.7	446.1	446.1	446.6	0.5
G	7,775	640/360	4,119	2.6	446.5	446.5	447.2	0.7
H	9,305	521/441	3,184	3.4	447.5	447.5	448.3	0.8
I	10,920	657/477	3,162	3.4	449.0	449.0	450.0	1.0
J	12,235	297/57	1,596	6.8	450.5	450.5	451.5	1.0
K	13,090	363/43	2,263	4.8	452.5	452.5	453.5	1.0
L	14,060	256/201	2,328	4.7	453.9	453.9	454.8	0.9
M	15,440	306/96	2,481	4.4	455.2	455.2	455.9	0.7
N	16,070	347/107	2,645	4.1	455.6	455.6	456.4	0.8
O	16,150	297/67	2,489	4.4	456.1	456.1	456.6	0.5
P	17,070	280/70	2,624	4.2	456.8	456.8	457.3	0.5
Q	17,835	315/235	3,494	3.1	457.4	457.4	458.1	0.7

[1]Feet from corporate limits
[2]Width/width within corporate limits

TABLE 2

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PA
(SYNDER CO.)

FLOODWAY DATA

MIDDLE CREEK

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FLOODING SOURCE	PANEL[1]	ELEVATION DIFFERENCE[2] BETWEEN 1.0% (100-YEAR) FLOOD AND			FHF	ZONE	BASE FLOOD ELEVATION[3] (NGVD)
		10% (10 YR.)	2% (50 YR.)	0.2% (500 YR.)			
Middle Creek Reach 1	05	-2.4	-0.7	+1.2	025	A5	Varies

[1]Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel
[2]Weighted Average
[3]Rounded to the nearest foot - see map

TABLE 3

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PA
(SYNDER CO.)

FLOOD INSURANCE ZONE DATA

MIDDLE CREEK

5.3 Flood Insurance Zones

Flood insurance zones and zone numbers are assigned based on the type of flood hazard and the FHF, respectively. A unique zone number is associated with each possible FHF, and varies from 1 for a FHF of 005 to a maximum of 30 for a FHF of 200 or greater.

Zone A: Special Flood Hazard Areas inundated by the 100-year flood, determined by approximate methods; no base flood elevations shown or FHFs determined.

Zone A5: Special Flood Hazard Areas inundated by the 100-year flood; with base flood elevations shown, and zones subdivided according to FHFs.

Zone B: Areas between the Special Flood Hazard Areas and the limits of the 500-year flood; areas that are protected from the 100- or 500-year floods by dike, levee, or other water control structure; areas subject to certain types of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are less than 1.0 foot; and areas subject to 100-year flooding from sources with drainage areas less than 1 square mile. Zone B is not subdivided.

Zone C: Areas of minimal flooding; not subdivided.

Flood elevation differences, FHFs, flood insurance zones, and base flood elevations for the flooding source studied in detail in the community are shown in Table 3.

5.4 Flood Insurance Rate Map Description

The Flood Insurance Rate Map for the Township of Washington is, for insurance purposes, the principal result of the Flood Insurance Study. This map contains the official delineation of flood insurance zones and base flood elevations. Base flood elevation lines show the locations of the expected whole-foot water-surface elevation of the base (100-year) flood. The base flood elevations and zone numbers are used by insurance agents, in conjunction with structure elevations and characteristics, to assign actuarial insurance rates to structures and contents insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.

6.0 OTHER STUDIES

This Flood Insurance Study was prepared by compiling existing hydrologic and hydraulic technical and scientific data prepared by other organizations

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originally for purposes other than the preparation of this Flood Insurance Study. The data was identified as the best available at the time of compilation of this Flood Insurance Study and should depict the general conditions of the flooding sources with relative accuracy. FEMA performed a cursory review and accepted the data as valid for purposes of this Flood Insurance Study and the NFIP. However, if better information is known to exist or has been developed since the date of this report, the information should be immediately forwarded to the Natural and Technological Hazards Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency (Regional Director, Region III Office, Liberty Square Building (Second Floor), 105 South Seventh Street, Pennsylvania 19106) for consideration for revision of this study.

The Flood Insurance Study for the Township of Penn has been completed (Reference 1). The results of this study are in exact agreement with the results of that study.

A Flood Hazard Boundary Map has been published for the Township of Washington (Reference 11). The differences between the Flood Hazard Boundary Map and this study are justified due to the more detailed nature of this Flood Insurance Study.

7.0 LOCATION OF DATA

Information concerning the pertinent data used in preparation of this study can be obtained by contacting the Natural and Technological Hazards Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Regional Director, Region III Office, Liberty Square Building (Second Floor), 105 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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8. Berger Associates of Columbus, Ohio, Aerial Photographs, Scale 1:2,400: Township of Washington, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, March 1975.

9. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hydrologic Engineering Center, HEC-2 Water Surface Profiles, Generalized Computer Program, Davis, California, October 1973.

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11. U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Insurance Administration, Flood Hazard Boundary Map, Township of Washington, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1980.

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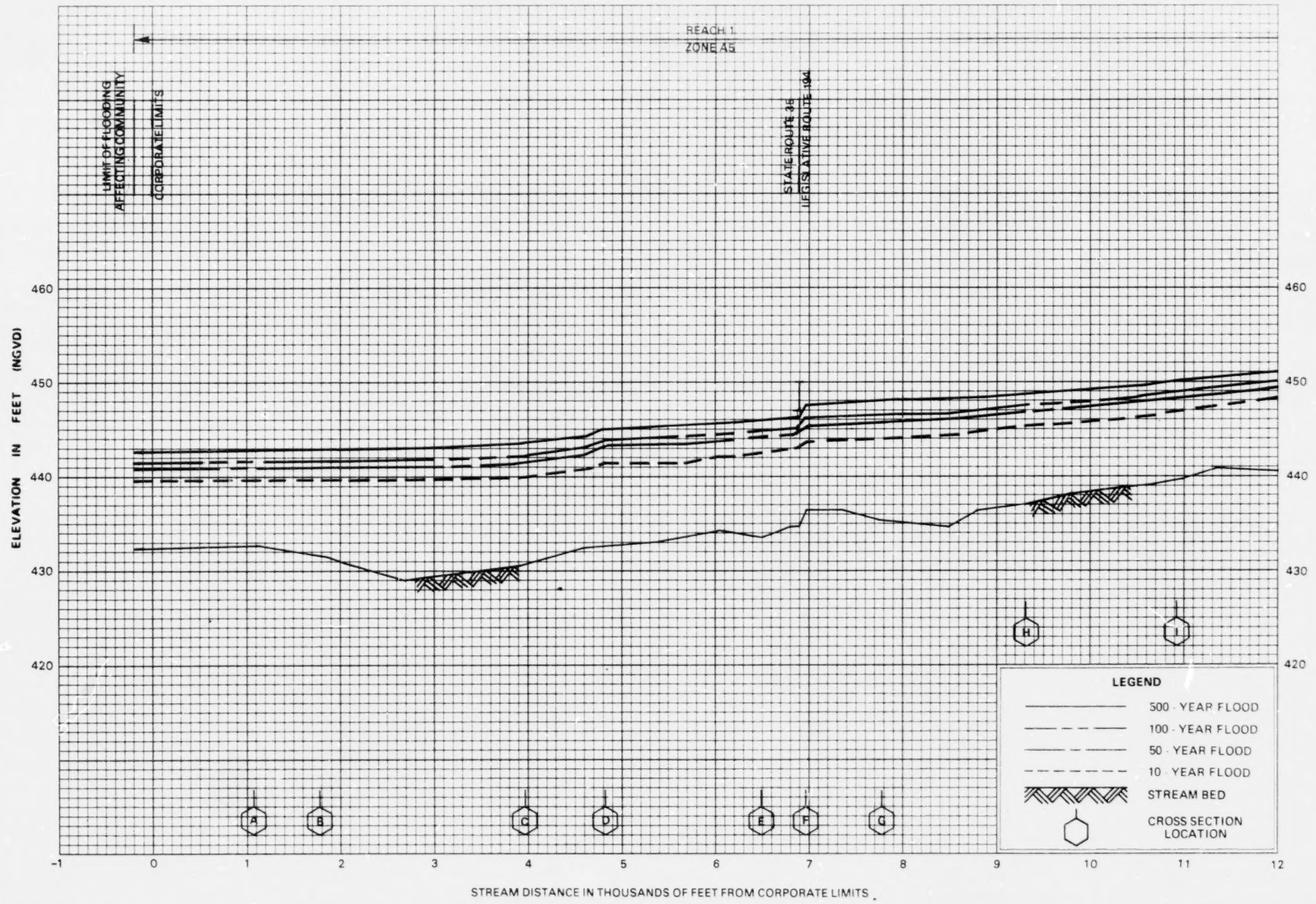

FLOOD PROFILES

MIDDLE CREEK

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PA

(SNYDER CO.)

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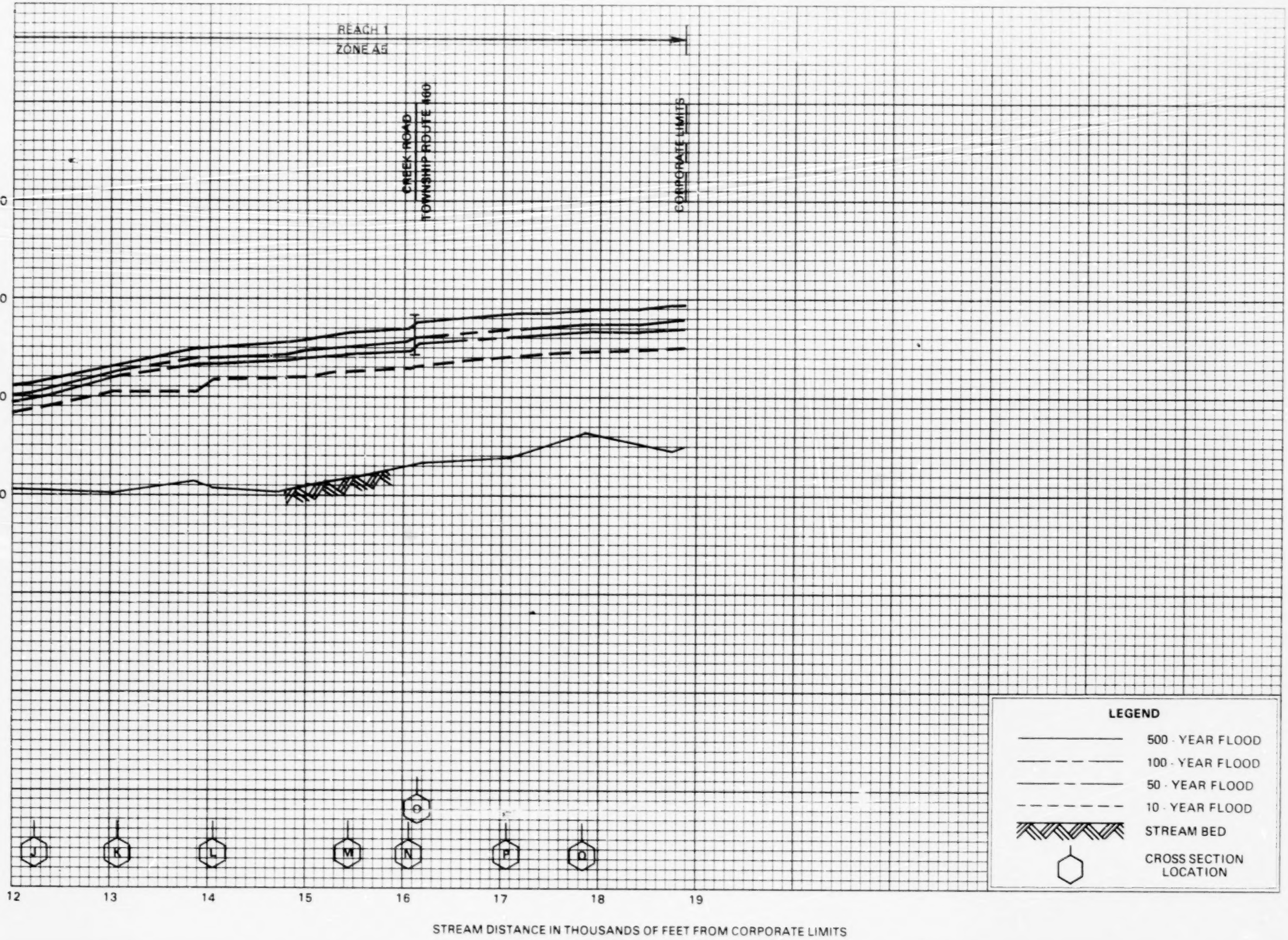

FLOOD PROFILES

MIDDLE CREEK

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, PA

(SNYDER CO.)

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